



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Joseph Cimino (NJ), Chair

Dan McKiernan (MA), Vice-Chair


Robert E. Beal, Executive Director

Sustainable and Cooperative Management of Atlantic Coastal Fisheries

MEMORANDUM

June 28, 2024

TO: Commissioners; Proxies; American Lobster Management Board; Atlantic Herring Management Board; Atlantic Menhaden Management Board; Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board; Atlantic Sturgeon Management Board; Coastal Pelagics Management Board; Executive Committee; ISFMP Policy Board; Sciaenids Management Board; Shad and River Herring Management Board; and Spiny Dogfish Management Board

FROM: Robert E. Beal 
Executive Director

RE: ASMFC Summer Meeting: August 6 – 8, 2024 (TA 24-062)

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer Meeting will be August 6 – 8, 2024 at **The Westin Crystal City**. This will be a hybrid meeting (both in-person and remote) to allow for participation by Commissioners and interested stakeholders; the details of which will be provided two weeks prior to the meeting. A brief, preliminary agenda and public comment guidelines are included with this memorandum. Materials will be available July 24th on the Commission website at <http://www.asmfc.org/home/2024-summer-meeting>.

A block of rooms is being held at The Westin Crystal City, 1800 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA 22202. Lisa Carty will make Commissioner/Proxy reservations and will contact you regarding the details of your accommodations. **Please notify Lisa of any changes to your travel plans that will impact your hotel reservations, otherwise you will incur no-show penalties.** We greatly appreciate your cooperation.

For all other attendees, please reserve your room online via our group link at [Book your group rate for ASMFC – August 06 - 08, 2024](#) or call Marriott directly at 888.236.2427 as soon as possible and mention the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to obtain the group room rate of \$176 plus tax single/dbl. Please be aware you must guarantee your room reservation with a major credit card or one night's advance payment. **Hotel reservations must be made by Monday, July 8, 2024. Room availability will not be guaranteed beyond this date.** If you are being reimbursed by ASMFC for your travel, please make your reservation directly with the hotel. Reservations made through travel websites do not apply toward our minimum number of required reservations with the hotel. **Please note, cancellations at The Westin must be made by 4 PM two days before arrival to avoid penalty and an early departure fee of \$176 + tax will apply when checking out before the confirmed date.** If you have any problems regarding accommodations, please contact Lisa Carty at 703.842.0713 or lcarty@asmfc.org.

We look forward to seeing you at the Summer Meeting. If the staff or I can provide any further assistance to you, please call us at 703.842.0740.

Enclosed: Preliminary Agenda, Hotel Directions, TA 24-062, and Travel Reimbursement Guidelines



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Summer Meeting

August 6 – 8, 2024

The Westin Crystal City

Arlington, Virginia

Public Comment Guidelines

To provide a fair opportunity for public input, the ISFMP Policy Board has approved the following guidelines for use at management board meetings:

For issues that are not on the agenda, management boards will continue to provide opportunities to the public to bring matters of concern to the board's attention at the start of each board meeting. Board chairs will ask members of the public to raise their hands to let the chair know they would like to speak. Depending upon the number of commenters, the board chair will decide how to allocate the available time on the agenda (typically 10 minutes) to the number of people who want to speak.

For topics that are on the agenda, but have not gone out for public comment, board chairs will provide limited opportunity for comment, taking into account the time allotted on the agenda for the topic. Chairs will have flexibility in deciding how to allocate comment opportunities; this could include hearing one comment in favor and one in opposition until the chair is satisfied further comments will not provide additional insight to the board.

For agenda action items that have already gone out for public comment, it is the Policy Board's intent to end the occasional practice of allowing extensive and lengthy public comments. Currently, board chairs have the discretion to decide what public comment to allow in these circumstances.

In addition, the following timeline has been established for the **submission of written comments for issues for which the Commission has NOT established a specific public comment period** (i.e., in response to proposed management action).

1. Comments received three weeks prior to the start of a meeting week (July 15) will be included in the briefing materials.
2. Comments received by 5 PM on Tuesday, July 30 will be included in supplemental materials.
3. Comments received by 10 AM on Friday, August 2 will be distributed electronically to Commissioners/Board members prior to the meeting.

The submitted comments must clearly indicate the commenter's expectation from the ASMFC staff regarding distribution. As with other public comment, it will be accepted via mail and email.

Preliminary Agenda

The agenda is subject to change. Bulleted items represent the anticipated major issues to be discussed or acted upon at the meeting. The final agenda will include additional items and may revise the bulleted items provided below. The agenda reflects the current estimate of time required for scheduled Board meetings. The Commission may adjust this agenda in accordance with the actual duration of Board meetings. Interested parties should anticipate Boards starting earlier or later than indicated herein.

Tuesday, August 6

9 – 9:45 a.m.

Atlantic Herring Management Board

- Review 2024 Management Track Assessment
- Consider Atlantic Herring FMP Review and State Compliance Reports for the 2023 Fishing Year

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

- Review Report from US Geological Survey on Osprey Data in Chesapeake Bay
- Progress Update on 2025 Ecological Reference Point Benchmark Stock Assessment
- Elect Vice-Chair

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Spiny Dogfish Management Board

- Review Report on State Impacts of Action by the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils to Reduce Sturgeon Bycatch and Consider Complementary Action

12:15 – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

- Consider Initial Recommendations from Recreational Release Mortality Work Group
- Consider FMP Review and State Compliance Reports for the 2023 Fishing Year

2:45 – 5:30 p.m.

American Lobster Management Board

- Progress Update on American Lobster Benchmark Stock Assessment
- Review Plan Development Team Report on Conservation Measures for Lobster Conservation Management Areas 2 and 3
 - Lobster Conservation Management Team Reports
- Review Report on Colby College Economic Analysis on the Lobster Gauge Increase
- Update on United States and Canada Discussion of the Gauge Increase
- Consider Final Approval of Addendum XXX (Mitchell Provision)
- Consider Report from Tracking Work Group

Wednesday, August 7

8 – 10 a.m.

Executive Committee

10:15 – 11:15 a.m. Atlantic Sturgeon Management Board

- Consider 2024 Atlantic Sturgeon Stock Assessment Update

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Sciaenids Management Board

- Consider 2024 Spot and Atlantic Croaker Traffic Light Analyses
- Consider Red Drum and Atlantic Croaker FMP Reviews and State Compliance Reports for the 2023 Fishing Year
- Update on Benchmark Stock Assessments for Red Drum, Atlantic Croaker, and Spot

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 – 4 p.m. Coastal Pelagics Management Board

- Consider Atlantic Cobia FMP Review and State Compliance Reports for the 2023 Fishing Year
- Consider Approval of Addendum II on Recreational Allocation, Harvest Target Evaluation, and Timeline for Setting Management Specifications
 - Review Public Comment and Advisory Panel Report
- Update from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council on Mackerel Port Meetings

4:15 – 5:30 p.m. Shad and River Herring Management Board

- Consider 2024 River Herring Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Reports

Thursday, August 8

8:30 – 10 a.m. Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board

- Committee Reports
 - Executive Committee
 - Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership
 - Habitat Committee
 - Assessment Science Committee
- Presentation of National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Program
- Update on American Eel Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species Activity
- Review Noncompliance Findings, if necessary

10 – 10:30 a.m. Commission Business Session

- Consider Noncompliance Recommendations, if necessary